

OPEN MEETING MINUTES
WAUKESHA COUNTY
TEMPORARY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 2019

PRESENT: Antwayne Robertson, Erik Weidig, Jason Fruth, Dale Shaver, Bill Seymour

GUESTS: Jim Landwehr

Meeting called to order by Chair Antwayne Robertson, Director WCDHHS at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum of the Committee present.

Shaver moved to approve the minutes of the October 17 meeting, second by Weidig.

Robertson reported that he has contacted the housing vendors to confirm their interest in purchasing properties. All vendors responded are interested. Robertson has shared the weekly property listing with the vendors regularly, but the housing vendors remain quiet. There is one new property and more rental properties on the current list.

A revision to add the status column to the property tracking spreadsheet has been made.

Fruth commented on one particular property currently on the sale list – that it is perhaps the most rural setting with only one adjacent home and otherwise farm fields. This property is relatively new to the list. It appears to be a better property than most, therefore Robertson will reach out to the housing vendors regarding this specific property.

Robertson will touch base with Popp on the status of his staff's rental property search activity, the status of the response from the Pewaukee condo association, and status of the Delafield property which required some repairs.

Weidig reported the day after the last Temporary Chapter 980 meeting, he attended a status conference. The conference did not go forward despite Weidig's and the public defender's appearance. A representative from the Department of Justice did not appear, subsequently the court did not proceed. The Public Defender has filed a motion seeking to compel Waukesha County to buy or create a residence for this individual. No motion date has been set. Weidig stated there is no legal basis to the Public Defender's request, but some case law supports it. The next hearing will likely occur after November 19.

Weidig reported this issue was presented to the cabinet that included options the county can pursue. The county has been working diligently on this.

Regarding incentivizing landlords and property owners, Shaver asked about extending the length of the lease longer than one year. Robertson stated that in response to questions regarding expanding the lease term, the State does not support this type of arrangement and will only seek at lease for one year at a time.

Weidig said it would be good to know from DHHS how many Waukesha County sex offenders are committed under Chapter 980. At least one individual has petitioned for the Chapter 980 supervised release program. Weidig suspects there may be others in the pipeline. Robertson will work with Serwa (or someone from her office) and Popp to ascertain the number of Waukesha County individuals currently committed under Chapter 980. An individual is allowed to petition every year.

Landwehr ran a search with a 500 foot buffer to examine the results. This would come into play if the buffer is removed, as it is in a proposed legislation, which will expand property and rental options.

According to Robertson, this issue has been on the Wisconsin Counties Association agenda, as well as on the radar of the Wisconsin County Health Services Association (WCHSA) who is advocating for a different process as all Wisconsin counties are struggling to locate housing.

Move to adjourn by Weidig, second by Fruth at 1:18 p.m.

Minutes approved: *Antwayne Robertson*
 Director
 Waukesha County Health and Human Services

Date: November 18, 2019